

America had to offer, and they served their country with pride, with honor, and with courage.

Next Monday is Memorial Day. It is a day to remember and honor those men and women who have given their lives for their country. It's a day to cherish and pray for those currently serving their country at home and abroad.

Support for our troops must always be an American issue and never a partisan one as our Nation's heroes are defending each one of our rights as American citizens. We must do what is best for veterans and active soldiers, not what's best for a sound bite, political propaganda, or election year politics. These are our Nation's heroes, and we must never let our fellow Americans forget their bravery and their sacrifices.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT ANSWERS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pose a question today, a question for the majority leadership of this House. My constituents are asking me, how high does the price of gasoline have to go before the Democrat leadership of this House decides to vote to allow domestic energy production? How much are Americans going to have to pay before they will bring our bills to the floor to address this issue? They are wanting to know. They also want to know why no refineries have been built since 1976. They want to know why permits seem to be slow walked when it comes to exploring for natural resources.

Today, my constituents in Memphis, Tennessee, are paying \$3.63 for one gallon of gasoline. That's nearly 55 percent more than they were paying when Speaker PELOSI took over.

The American people are wanting answers. And what is the energy solution that the Democratic leadership has offered? Well, it has been banning the traditional light bulb.

Americans want answers, Mr. Speaker, but even more, they want some action. They want the problem solved.

OIL PRICES

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, it's kind of funny to listen to the other side talk today. You would think that they had been really working on the energy crisis in this country.

When the President took over, gasoline was about \$1.80 a gallon, and now it's \$3.80 a gallon where I live. Now, that's an energy policy you could see developed in the White House by Mr. CHENEY. He brought in all the oil company executives and said, how can we

drive up the price of gasoline so you guys can make a whole lot of money? They had a secret meeting. They wouldn't tell anybody who was there. They wouldn't tell anybody what was talked about. They have been fighting in the courts for 8 years to keep from telling us what went on at that meeting at the beginning of the Bush administration.

We see the results. They got them, the biggest profits of the oil companies in history. And we tried to take a little \$16 billion loophole and close it and use some of that money for alternative energy production and conservation and the President said, no way, we can't take anything away from those oil companies. Why, they need it all.

We're not going to get a reduction in oil prices in this country until we change the administration when BARACK OBAMA takes over on the 20th of January, 2009.

□ 1015

RECOGNIZING ISRAEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. LAMBORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Israel's 60th anniversary and the progress it has made as a nation.

In May, 1948, after almost 2,000 years of exile, Jews returned to their homeland and made the State of Israel a reality. Israel is a model of democracy in action and a pillar of humanity in the Middle East. Its civil liberties are guaranteed by laws, and its laws are protected by an independent judiciary.

Since its founding in 1948, Israel has been constantly aware of the necessity of a strong defense. Wars, conflicts, and terrorism have taught it the importance of utilizing innovative technologies to protect democracy.

The U.S. was the first nation to recognize Israel as a state 60 years ago. Now our countries continue to cooperate in the fight against global terrorism and work together to create and maintain a strong ballistic missile system.

This month we celebrate how far Israel has journeyed since its birth. It is a model of human rights, democracy, and freedom. We are proud to call Israel an ally.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS OFFER SOLUTIONS TO LOWER GAS PRICES

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat leadership promised the American people a "commonsense" plan to lower gas prices, but House Democrats have not only failed to offer any meaningful solutions, they've put forward policies that will have precisely the opposite effect.

Since Democrats took control of Congress, gasoline prices have skyrocketed by more than \$1 a gallon. In fact, the price of gas is at an all-time high of \$3.80 a gallon today. This is the last thing middle class families need. Every dollar counts and families should not have to spend it on gasoline.

Middle class families need relief, not more broken promises from the Democrat majority. That's why Republicans will continue to stand up for average Americans and offer solutions to reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern oil, lower gas prices here at home, and invest in alternative forms of energy to create American jobs and grow our economy.

Energy prices are rising, cost of living expenses are rising, and the Democrat leadership is content with sitting on the sidelines and raising taxes and increasing spending.

House Republicans are committed to helping working Americans who are carrying the majority of the burden of the Democrats' failure to lead.

INCREASING AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION RESPONSIBLY

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, for 501 days liberal Democrats have controlled Congress. And these liberal Democrats, including the Speaker, continue to talk about their secret solution for skyrocketing gas prices. But they have failed to produce any answers.

Empty rhetoric and broken promises will not lower the price at the pump for American families. The people in my district in Southwest Louisiana understand that and they want real solutions. They want a comprehensive energy policy that allows us to strategically manage our fossil fuel dependence while we then transition and invest in alternative fuels. They don't want an energy policy that's held hostage to radical environmentalism. They want an energy policy that will increase responsible American energy production and refining capacity. They want to unleash American ingenuity and entrepreneurship. They don't want delays. They want a comprehensive energy policy because it's in the interest of our national security.

Families in Southwest Louisiana and across the country are looking for solutions to the price at the pump, they're looking for solutions for health care costs, and they're looking for solutions to the housing slowdown. Republicans have viable answers.

The American people are asking the Democratic leadership in Washington if they have solutions, we haven't seen any. Bring them forward. Let's work together to ease the price at the pump and to decrease America's dependence on foreign sources of oil.